

REMARKS

Claims 1-3, 6-9, 11, 13 and 15-21 are pending in the subject patent application. Of those claims, claims 1, 2, 8, 15, 18, 19 and 20 are independent.

In the outstanding final Office Action, claims 1-3, 6-9, 11, 13 and 15-21 are rejected under 35 USC Section 103(a) as being obvious over Amin et al. (US 2002/0058506, hereinafter "Amin") in view of Forslow (US 2003/0039237, hereinafter "Forslow").

It is respectfully asserted that for at least the following reasons the cited references do not disclose or suggest Applicant's claimed subject matter, whether the references are viewed alone or in any combination. Nor is there any reason to combine and modify the teachings of these references in an attempt to arrive at Applicant's claimed subject matter.

For the Examiner's convenience, the afore-referenced independent claims are set forth below (emphasis added). The recited claim features, particularly the emphasized features, are not disclosed in, or suggested by, the cited art, as explained below.

Independent claim 1 recites:

1. A method of registering a multimode mobile station in a telecommunications system, *wherein the telecommunications system comprises a home location register for maintaining mobile subscriber data and supports a first network and a second network of a different type*, the method comprising:

in the home location register, maintaining the mobile subscriber data and receiving, from another network element, a message for requesting the mobile subscriber data, *the mobile subscriber data comprising address information for accessing the mobile subscriber via the first and the second network of the different type*;

the home location register maintaining a subscriber-specific access parameter which indicates, independently of the address information, whether the mobile subscriber has access rights to the first network and/or the second network of the different type;

wherein the first network and second network are provided by a common operator; and

in response to said message for requesting the mobile subscriber data, the home location register sends the mobile subscriber data and also said subscriber-specific access parameter;

wherein the network element that requested the mobile subscriber data is operable to use said subscriber-specific access parameter for restricting the location updating of the mobile station only to the first network or to the second network of the different type.

Independent claim 2 recites:

2. A method of registering a multimode mobile station in a telecommunications system, *wherein the telecommunications system comprises a home location register for maintaining mobile subscriber data and supports a first network and a second network of a different type, wherein the first network and second network are provided by a common operator, the mobile subscriber data comprising address information for accessing the mobile subscriber via the first and the second network and a subscriber-specific access parameter indicating, independently of the address information, whether the mobile subscriber has access rights to the first network and/or the second network of the different type, the method comprising:*

sending from another network element to the home location register a message for requesting the mobile subscriber data, the mobile subscriber data comprising said subscriber-specific access parameter indicating, independently of the address information, whether the mobile subscriber has access rights to the first network and/or the second network of the different type;

the network element that requested the mobile subscriber data using said subscriber-specific access parameter to restrict a location update of the mobile station only to the first and/or the second network of the different type.

Independent claim 8 recites:

8. A home location register configured to operate in a *telecommunications system that supports multimode mobile stations and which comprises a first network and a second network of a different type*, the first and second networks being provided by a common operator, the *home location register* comprising:

a processor; and

a memory operatively connected to the processor and configured to store mobile subscriber data for registering a multimode mobile station, *the mobile subscriber data comprising address information for accessing the mobile station via the first and the second network*; and

a subscriber-specific access parameter which indicates, independently of the address information, whether a mobile subscriber to whom the mobile station has been registered has access rights to the first network and/or the second network of the different type;

wherein the processor is configured to receive, from another network element, a location update message for the mobile station and to *send the mobile subscriber data and said subscriber-specific access parameter* as a response to said location update message.

Independent claim 15 recites:

15. A network element configured to operate in a *telecommunications system which supports a first network and a second network of a different type*, and multimode mobile stations, wherein the telecommunications system comprises a *home location register* for maintaining mobile subscriber data for registering a multimode mobile station in the telecommunications system, *the mobile subscriber data comprising address information for accessing the mobile subscriber via the first and the second network* and a *subscriber-specific access parameter indicating, independently of the address information, whether the mobile subscriber has access rights to the first network and/or the second network* of the different type, the network element comprising:

a processor configured to:

send, to the home location register, a message for location updating of the mobile subscriber station;

receive the mobile subscriber data and said subscriber-specific access parameter as a response to said message;

use said subscriber-specific access parameter to restrict location updating of the mobile station only to the first and/or the second network;

wherein the first network and second network are provided by a *common operator*.

Lastly, independent claims 18-20 recite, respectively:

18. A method of registering a multimode mobile station in a telecommunications system, wherein the *telecommunications system* comprises home location register for maintaining mobile subscriber data and *supports a first network and a second network of different type*, the method comprising:

at the home location register, maintaining the mobile subscriber data and receiving, from another network element, a message for requesting the mobile subscriber data, *the mobile subscriber data comprising address information for accessing the mobile subscriber via the first and the second network of different type*;

the home location register maintaining a subscriber-specific access parameter which indicates, independently of the address information, whether the mobile subscriber has access rights to the first network and/or the second network of different type;

wherein the first network and second network are provided by a *common operator*; and

in response to said message for requesting the mobile subscriber data, the home location register sending the mobile subscriber data and also said subscriber specific access parameter;

wherein the network element that requested the mobile subscriber data is operable to use said subscriber-specific access parameter for restricting paging of the mobile station only to the first network or to the second network of different type.

19. A method of registering a multimode mobile station in a

telecommunications system, wherein the *telecommunications system* comprises a home location register that maintains mobile subscriber data and *supports a first network and a second network of a different type*, wherein the first network and the second network are provided by a common operator, *the mobile subscriber data comprising address information for accessing the mobile subscriber via the first and the second network* and a subscriber-specific access parameter indicating, independently of the address information whether the mobile subscriber has access rights to the first network and/or the second network of different type, the method comprising:

sending from another network element to the home location register a message for requesting the mobile subscriber data, *the mobile subscriber data comprising said subscriber-specific access parameter indicating, independently of the address information whether the mobile subscriber has access rights to the first network and/or the second network of the different type;*

the network element that requested the mobile subscriber data using said subscriber-specific access parameter to restrict paging of the mobile station only to the first and/or the second network of different type.

20. A home location register configured to operate in a *telecommunications system* which supports multimode mobile stations and which comprises a *first network and a second network of a different type*, the first network and second network provided by a *common operator*, the home location register comprising:

a processor; and

a memory structured to store mobile subscriber data for registering a multimode mobile station, *the mobile subscriber data comprising address information for accessing the mobile station via the first and second network, and a subscriber-specific access parameter which indicates, independently of the address information, whether a mobile subscriber to whom the mobile station has been registered has access rights to the first network and/or the second network of different type;*

the processor being configured to receive, from another network element, a message for restoration of the mobile subscriber data *and to send the mobile subscriber data and said subscriber-specific access parameter to the network element in response to said message.*

For at least the enumerated reasons below, the subject matter recited in the afore-referenced independent claims is not disclosed in, nor suggested by, the cited art.

1. Claim recitation: "wherein the telecommunications system supports a first network and a second network of a different type."

Regarding this feature, the Examiner contends at page 2 of the Action that "Amin teaches a method of registering a multimode mobile station in a telecommunications system, wherein the telecommunications system comprises a home location register for maintaining mobile subscriber data and supports a first network and a second network different type ..."

Applicant respectfully disagrees. Amin fails to teach or even suggest a first network and second network of a different type.

2. Claim recitation: "the mobile subscriber data comprising address information for accessing the mobile subscriber via the first and the second network of the different type."

The Examiner fails to cite anything against the above feature.

Applicant respectfully points out that address information may be present in telecommunication systems and the address information is typically implemented in the form of IMSI (International Mobile Subscriber Number).

Amin discloses MIN and ESN numbers (see paragraph [0004]), which are examples of address information. However, Amin's MIN/ESN pair does not disclose or suggest, for example, Applicant's recited claim feature of:

"subscriber-specific access parameter, which indicates, independently of the address information, whether the mobile subscriber has access to rights to the first network and/or the second network."

At page 2 of the outstanding Office Action, the Examiner contends that Amin discloses Applicant's recited feature of:

"the home location register maintaining a subscriber-specific access parameter which indicates, independently of the address information, whether the mobile subscriber has access to rights to the first network and/or the second network."

The Examiner thus appears to equate Applicant's claimed subscriber-specific access parameter with Amin's MIN/ESN pair (paragraph [0004], Fig. 2).

Applicant respectfully disagrees and notes that paragraphs [0004]-[0005] of Amin disclose:

"... eavesdroppers intercepting legitimate subscriber's wireless telephone sets' Mobile Identification Numbers (MIN) and Electronic Serial Numbers (ESN) pairs ... The intercepted MINs and ESNs pairs are then programmed into an illegal wireless device to enable a fraud perpetrator to initiate roaming wireless calls that are charged to the legitimate subscribers' accounts."

As the MIN/ESN pairs in Amin are used to initiate calls, it is clear that Amin fails to disclose anything comparable to Applicant's recited features of "the home location register maintaining a subscriber-specific access parameter which indicates, independently of the address information, whether the mobile subscriber has access to rights to the first network and/or the second network" as in, for example, independent claim 1.

In an alternative reading of the Office Action, Amin's "profile" may arguably be cited against Applicant's recited features of "subscriber-specific access parameter which indicates, independently of the address information, whether the mobile subscriber has access to rights." However, even if this reading is applied (which Applicant does not admit to be proper), Amin still fails to disclose or suggest, for example, Applicant's recited claim features of "in response to said message for requesting the mobile subscriber data, the home location register sends the mobile subscriber data

and also said subscriber-specific access parameter, “ as recited in, for example, independent claim 1.

Instead, Amin discloses in paragraphs [0025] - [0028] that a home location register may use a profile, but does not send it.

For completion, it is respectfully asserted that Forslow does not cure the above deficiencies. Thus, no combination of Amin and Forslow (the combination of which is not admitted to be proper by Applicant, as further described below) discloses or suggest such recited features of Applicant’s independent claims.

3. Claim recitation: "in response to said message for requesting the mobile subscriber data, the home location register sends the mobile subscriber data and also said subscriber-specific access parameter."

The Examiner cites paragraphs [0025] - [0028] of Amin as disclosing the above feature. However, the Examiner provides no explanation. In particular, the Office Action fails to specify which element(s) of the four cited paragraphs of Amin is equated by Examiner as disclosing Applicant's "subscriber-specific access parameter." If the Examiner is referring to Amin's "profile" (which is not admitted to be proper by Applicant), it is noted that Amin also fails to disclose or suggest that the home location register sends the "subscriber-specific access parameter" ("profile" in Amin) in response to said message for requesting the mobile subscriber data. Instead, Amin discloses that a home location register performs roaming restrictions itself.

4. Claim recitation: "wherein the network element that requested the mobile subscriber data is operable to use said subscriber-specific access parameter for restricting the location updating of the mobile station only to the first network or to the second network of the different type."

The Examiner cites paragraphs [0025] - [0028] of Amin and Figs 2 and 4 again with no supporting explanation. It is respectfully asserted that the Office Action fails to specify which element of the four cited paragraphs is allegedly equated with Applicant's "subscriber-specific access parameter." Again, if the Office Action is

referring to Amin's "profile" (which again is not admitted to be proper by Applicant), it is noted that Amin fails to disclose or suggest that the home location register sends the "subscriber-specific access parameter" ("profile" in Amin) in response to said message for requesting the mobile subscriber data. Instead, Amin discloses that a home location register performs roaming restrictions itself.

5. Claim recitation: "wherein the first network and the second network are provided by a common operator."

The Examiner cites Forslow, in particular, Fig. 2, reference numerals 35 and 51, and paragraphs [0030], [0050], [0053]-[0054], [0075] and [0099] as disclosing these features.

Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner's analysis. For example, Forslow fails to disclose or suggest, for example, that networks (arguably elements 35 and 51) are provided by a common operator. Forslow uses the word "operator" only once, in paragraph [0016], and it is clear that the context does not relate to Applicant's afore-recited claim elements.

In an alternative reading of the Office Action, it may be argued that Forslow's networks 35 and 51 may be provided by a common operator because only one home location register is shown. In such a reading (which Applicant does not admit to be proper), the Office Action suffers from the deficiency that the two cited references, namely Amin and Forslow, cannot be combined because they are contradictory to each other.

For example, Applicant's independent claims recite, in part, that the "first network and the second network are provided by a common operator."

In contrast, Amin discloses a home location register maintaining a profile that defines roaming restrictions. By definition, "roaming" means accessing a network other than the subscriber's home network. Those skilled in the art will realize that a subscriber's home network and a roamed network cannot be provided by a common operator.

Therefore the two cited references, namely Amin and Forslow, cannot be properly combined and result in any teaching or suggestion of Applicant's claimed invention.

All issues having been addressed, all independent claims are patentable in view of the cited art. As all independent claims are patentable, all remaining dependent claims also are patentable at least in view of their dependency from an allowable independent claim.

No new issues requiring further search and/or consideration are presented by this Response, which is believed to place the subject application in condition for immediate allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to enter the Response, and reconsider and withdraw the outstanding rejection. A favorable consideration that results in allowance of the pending claims is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted:

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